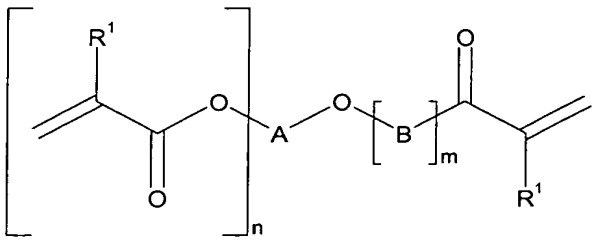
We claim:-

1. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I



(I)

where

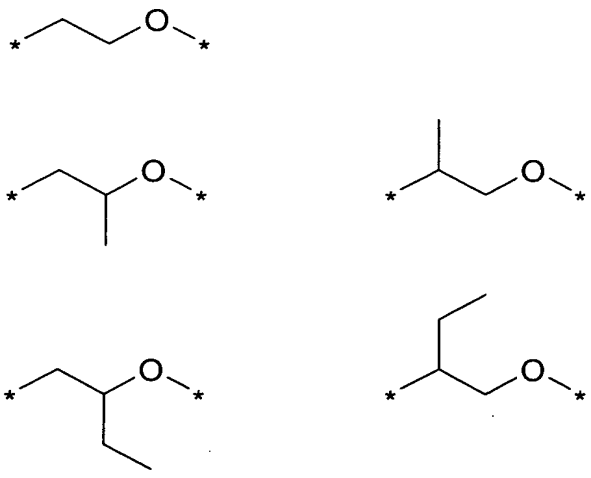
R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

n is an integer from 2 to 5,

m is an integer from 1 to 100,

A is C_3 to C_{20} alk(n+1)yl or C_3 to C_{20} heteroalk(n+1)yl, and

B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of



where * identifies the positions of attachment.

2. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I as per claim 1 where

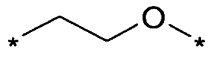
R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

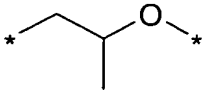
n 2 or 3,

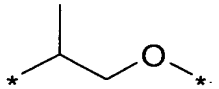
m is an integer from 2 to 50,

A C_3 to C_{10} alk(n+1)yl, and

B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of







where * identifies the positions of attachment.

3. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I as per claim 1 where

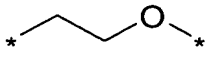
R^1 is hydrogen or methyl,

n is 2,

m is an integer from 3 to 30,

A is C_3 to C_6 alk(n+1)yl, and

B is



where * identifies the positions of attachment.

4. (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of the general formula I as per any of claims 1 to 3 in which formula the polyol is glycerol.

5. A process for preparing the (meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols as per any of claims 1 to 4, comprising the steps of

a) hydrolyzing the partially protected monoalkoxylated polyol in the presence of at least one hydrolysis catalyst and water,

b) reacting the monoalkoxylated polyol with (meth)acrylic acid in the presence of at least one esterification catalyst and of at least one polymerization inhibitor and optionally of a water-azeotroping solvent to form the (meth)acrylic ester of the monoalkoxylated polyol, it being possible to carry out b) in the same reactor as a),

c) optionally removing from the reaction mixture some or all of the water formed in b), during and/or after b),

d) optionally neutralizing the reaction mixture,

e) when a solvent was used, optionally removing this solvent.

6. Swellable hydrogel-forming polymer containing a copolymerized internal crosslinker of the general formula I according to any of claims 1 to 4.

7. A process for preparing crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymers as claimed in claim 6, which comprises polymerizing an aqueous mixture comprising a hydrophilic monomer, optionally at least one further monoethylenically unsaturated compound, at least one (meth)acrylic ester of monoalkoxylated polyols, at least one free-radical initiator and optionally also at least one grafting base, and optionally the reaction mixture obtained being postcrosslinked, dried and brought to the desired particle size.

8. The use of crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymers as claimed in claim 6 for manufacturing a hygiene article.

9. A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer as claimed in claim 6.